

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0746

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FOR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARROP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, LI

SUBJECT: FY 79 AND FY 80 BUDGETED ASSISTANCE FOR LIBERIA

REFS: (A) STATE 224147 (B) STATE 167901 DTG 03083Z JULY 78

(C) MONROVIA A-6, FEBRUARY 19, 1978

(D) STATE 66872 (E) STATE 0378

(F) STATE 1343 (G) STATE 1464

(H) MONROVIA 1867 (I) MONROVIA 5272

(J) 76 STATE 245906

1. REF A INDICATES THAT THERE IS A LESSENING IN THE OVERALL LEVEL OF BOTH DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND FOREIGN MILITARY SALES FOR LIBERIA. IN THE VIEW OF THIS MISSION, THIS TREND RUNS CONTRARY TO U.S. INTERESTS IN LIBERIA, INTERESTS WHICH HAVE BEEN AMPLY DESCRIBED IN REFERENCES C, H AND I.

2. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE: ON OCTOBER 5, 1976, DURING THE STATE VISIT TO THE U.S. OF PRESIDENT WILLIAM R. TOLBERT, JR., ACTING SECRETARY ROBINSON TOLD PRESIDENT TOLBERT THAT "WE EXPECT TO WORK TOWARD THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROGRAM OF MORE THAT DOUBLING THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WHICH WE HAVE PROVIDED DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS. WE DO THIS BECAUSE WE RECOGNIZE THAT YOU SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLES, SUPPORT THE IDEALS, REPRESENT A COUNTRY IN AFRICA IN WHICH WE HAVE A COMMONALITY OF INTERESTS AND A COMMONALITY OF OBJECTIVES AND GOALS."
(REF H) IT IS CERTAIN THAT ON LEARNING OF THE PROPOSED

LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE, THE GOL WILL REMIND US OF THIS COMMITMENT. IN EXTENUATION WE CAN SAY THAT THE HOPED FOR LEVELS IN FY 77 AND FY 78 WERE NOT MET IN PART BECAUSE OF DEFERRAL OF THE INTEGRATED RURAL HEALTH PROJECT, AS WELL AS DELAYS IN THE DESIGN AND APPROVAL OF PROJECTS PLANNED IN AGRICULTURE, EDUCATION AND HOUSING. BUT THIS IS SMALL COMFORT TO A MAN AS EAGER AS PRESIDENT TOLBERT IS TO ACCELERATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS NATION. FURTHERMORE, THE GOL HAS RENEWED ITS REQUESTS FOR INCREASED DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE DURING THE COMING YEAR WHEN IT WILL BE HARD PRESSED IN CONNECTION WITH ITS COMMITMENTS TO HOST THE OAU CONFERENCE (SUMMER 1979). WE ARE EXPLORING MEANS OF INCREASING THE FY 79 AND FY 80 LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE AND WILL SHORTLY SUBMIT A PROPOSED INCREASED "DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE" FOR CONSIDERATION.

3. WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIC FIGURES QUOTED IN REF A, WE WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF THE FY 80 LEVEL AND AN INDICATION OF WHICH OF THE PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE AID ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION "PROPOSED LEVEL" WERE REDUCED OR OMITTED TO ARRIVE AT THE LOWER FIGURE CITED IN REF A.

FMS/IMET

4. WITH REGARD TO FMS LEVELS FOR FY 78, 79 AND 80, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF WHAT WE CONSIDER TO BE THE LEGITIMATE REQUIREMENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF LIBERIA (REFERENCES B, H AND I). THE \$0.4 MILLION FMS PROGRAM FOR FY 79 IS INADEQUATE TO THE ACTUAL NEEDS AND INAPPROPRIATE TO OUR SECURITY INTERESTS IN LIBERIA. WE CONTINUE TO URGE THAT MORE EFFORT BE MADE TO RAISE THE FY 79 LEVEL BY \$0.8 MILLION TO OUR RECOMMENDED \$1.2 MILLION. THE PROPOSED FY 80 PROGRAM OF \$1.5 MILLION IS WHAT HAS BEEN REQUESTED, BUT IT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED THAT THIS FIGURE ASSUMED A FY 79 FIGURE OF \$1.2 MILLION.

5. ON IMET THE PROPOSED FUNDING LEVEL FOR FY 80 OF \$0.23 MILLION IS WHAT WE HAVE REQUESTED. THIS LEVEL PROVIDES FOR A COMPOSITE TRAINING PROGRAM INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN U.S. MILITARY SCHOOLS FOR SELECTED LIBERIAN STUDENTS AND THE PRESENCE IN LIBERIA OF MOBILE TRAINING TEAMS TAILORED TO SPECIFIC LIBERIAN TRAINING REQUIREMENTS. WALKER

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